What is claimed is:

1.   A system for providing access to a plurality of disparate content repositories comprising:

a client application program interface (API) that is configured to generate a user request to access content and metadata properties in a plurality of content repositories having a plurality of proprietary program interfaces;

a plurality of bridges that translate the user request into a format understandable by the proprietary program interfaces of the plurality of content repositories; and

a view services component that processes and converts results content from the plurality of content repositories into a format understandable by said client API.

2.   The system of claim 1 further comprising an access services component that relays the user request to access content and metadata properties in the plurality of content repositories from said client API to said plurality of bridges.

3.   The system of claim 2 wherein said access services component maps metadata properties across the plurality of content repositories.

4.   The system of claim 1 further comprising an exchange services server that enables import and export of content and metadata properties in the plurality of content repositories in an XML format.

5.   The system of claim 1 wherein said client API is in a format selected from the group consisting of Java, component object model (COM), and web services.

6.   The system of claim 1 wherein a single bridge corresponds with a single content repository.

7.   The system of claim 1 wherein said view services component is an Enterprise Java Bean (EJB).

8.   The system of claim 1 wherein each bridge is an Enterprise Java Bean (EJB) deployed in an application server.

9.   The system of claim 1 further comprising a bridge factory that is configured to generate a new bridge to support each new content repository in the system.

10.   The system of claim 1 wherein said view services component comprises at least one converter that converts results content into an Internet browser readable format.

11.   The system of claim 1 wherein said view services component comprises at least one processor that processes results content by scaling, rotating, or enhancing an image.

12.   The system of claim 1 wherein each bridge answers client requests via a mode selected from the group consisting of remote method invocation (RMI), Internet Inter-ORB Protocol (IIOP), and extensible markup language (XML) over hypertext transport protocol (HTTP).

13.   The system of claim 1 wherein each bridge accesses its underlying content repository

via a mode selected from the group consisting of Java, Component Object Model (COM), and

Java Native Interface (JNI) application program interface (API) calls.

5   14.   A method for providing access to a plurality of disparate content repositories

comprising the steps of:

enabling a user to generate a request in a client application program interface (API) to

access content and metadata properties in a plurality of content repositories having a plurality

of proprietary program interfaces;

10   translating, with a plurality or bridges, the user request into a format understandable

by the proprietary program interfaces of the plurality of content repositories; and

processing and converting results content from the plurality of content repositories

into a format understandable by the client API.

15   15.   The method of claim 14 further comprising the step of relaying the user request to

access content and metadata properties in the plurality of content repositories from the client

API to the plurality of bridges.

16.   The method claim 14 further comprising the step of mapping metadata properties

20   across the plurality of content repositories.

17.   The method of claim 14 further comprising the step of importing and exporting

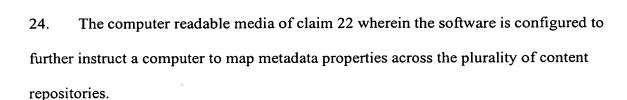content and metadata properties in the plurality of content repositories in an XML format.

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18.   The method of claim 14 further comprising the step of corresponding a single bridge with a single content repository.

19.   The method of claim 14 further comprising the step of generating a new bridge to

5   support each new content repository in the system.

20.   The method of claim 14 further comprising the step of converting results content into an Internet browser readable format.

10   21.   The method of claim 14 further comprising the step of processing results content by scaling, rotating, or enhancing an image.

22.   A computer readable media comprising software for providing access to a plurality of disparate content repositories, the software being configured to instruct a computer to:

        enable a user to generate a request in a client application program interface (API) to access content and metadata properties in a plurality of content repositories having a plurality of proprietary program interfaces;

        translate, with a plurality or bridges, the user request into a format understandable by the proprietary program interfaces of the plurality of content repositories; and

20   process and convert results content from the plurality of content repositories into a format understandable by the client API.

23.   The computer readable media of claim 22 wherein the software is configured to further instruct a computer to relay the user request to access content and metadata properties

25   in the plurality of content repositories from the client API to the plurality of bridges.

24.   The computer readable media of claim 22 wherein the software is configured to

further instruct a computer to map metadata properties across the plurality of content

repositories.

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25.   The computer readable media of claim 22 wherein the software is configured to

further instruct a computer to import and export content and metadata properties in the

plurality of content repositories in an XML format.

10   26.   The computer readable media of claim 22 wherein the software is configured to

further instruct a computer to correspond a single bridge with a single content repository.

27.   The computer readable media of claim 22 wherein the software is configured to

further instruct a computer to generate a new bridge to support each new content repository in

15   the system.

28.   The computer readable media of claim 22 wherein the software is configured to

further instruct a computer to convert results content into an Internet browser readable

format.

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29.   The computer readable media of claim 22 wherein the software is configured to

further instruct a computer to process results content by scaling, rotating, or enhancing an

image.